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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/763,226	01/26/2004	Flora Goldthwaite	MFCP.108792	6550
45809 7590 05/09/2007 SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P. (c/o MICROSOFT CORPORATION) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT 2555 GRAND BOULEVARD KANSAS CITY, MO 64108-2613			EXAMINER WILLIAMS, KENT L	
			ART UNIT 2139	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/09/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/763,226

Applicant(s)

GOLDTHWAITE ET AL.

Examiner

Kent L. Williams

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

1. The drawings are objected to because Figures 5-14 have poor reproduction quality, containing overexposed images. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Specification***

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: "stored implemented," found on page 1, paragraph 3, should be "maintained."

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,845,260).

**C1.** A system for controlling child access to a set of resources in a computerized environment, the system comprising:

a credit storage area for storing credits, wherein each credit entitles the child to a fixed amount of access to the set of resources [Figure 1, Block 2 and Column 3, Lines 11-15.];

credit tracking tools for adding and subtracting credits from the credit storage area in response to monitored activities of the child [Column 3, Lines 16-20 and Column 6, Lines 3-7.]; and

an access regulation module for denying child access to the set of resources upon detection of insufficient credits in the credit storage area [Column 5, Lines 1-6.].

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**C2.** The system of claim 1, further comprising administrator controls including a rules definition module for allowing an administrator to set access rules [Column 7 & 8, Lines 64-67 & 1-9.].

**C3.** The system of claim 2, wherein the administrator controls further comprise a child selection module enabling the administrator to create a rule set for each child [Column 6, Lines 40-45.].

**C4.** The system of claim 2, wherein the administrator controls further comprise a device selection module for allowing the administrator to apply the access rules to a selected device [Column 7, Lines 45-50. Also: Column 4, Lines 54-61, where the Examiner is interpreting 'device[s]' to encompass service provided by differing systems. Therefore, transmitting the requested service of the child "via a predetermined cable to the server/processor 1 (Col. 4, Ln. 60-61)" is indicative of controlling access to differing devices' services presented over said predetermined cable.].

**C5.** The system of claim 2, wherein the administrator controls further comprise a content selection module enabling the administrator to select content viewable by the child [Column 8, Lines 10-15.].

**C6.** The system of claim 1, further comprising activity monitoring tools for determining if a child performs a required activity [Column 8, Lines 4-9. The Examiner is interpreting 'required activity' to encompass the child having not gone over a specified 'credit limit' (or "limited maximum amount").].

**C7.** The system of claim 1, further comprising a child user interface including a credit gauge enabling the child to view available credits [Column 7, Lines 36-38. All display

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means are taught.].

**C8.** The system of claim 7, wherein the child interface includes a prompting display for prompting the child to earn credits [Column 6, Lines 3-7.].

**C9.** The system of claim 7, wherein the child user interface includes a notification display for notifying a child that insufficient credits are available [Column 5, Lines 1-6.].

**C10.** The system of claim 7, wherein the child user interface further comprises a prompting display for prompting the child to perform required tasks [Column 6, Lines 3-7.].

**C11.** The system of claim 1, further comprising an administrator user interface including a child activity log for allowing the parent to view the most recently performed child activity [Column 7, Lines 38-41 and Lines 3-9].

**C12.** A method for controlling a child's access to a set of resources in a computerized environment, the method comprising:

storing a set of credits in a credit storage area, wherein each credit entitles the child to a fixed amount of access to the set of resources [Figure 1, Block 2 and Column 3, Lines 11-15.];

tracking credits earned in response to a child's performance of selected activities [Column 6, Lines 3-7.];

tracking credits used in response to the child's use of the set of resources [Column 3, Lines 16-20.]; and

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denying child access to the set of resources if insufficient credits exist in the credit storage area [Column 5, Lines 1-6.].

**C13.** The method of claim 12, further comprising allowing an administrator to select a child from a list of children using a child selection module [Column 8, Lines 10-15.].

**C14.** The method of claim 12, further comprising allowing an administrator to set access rules using a rules definition module [Column 7 & 8, Lines 64-67 & 1-9.].

**C15.** The method of claim 12, further comprising providing a child selection module enabling an administrator to create a rule set for each child [Column 6, Lines 40-45.].

**C16.** The method of claim 12, further comprising providing a device selection module for allowing an administrator to apply the access rules to a selected device [Column 7, Lines 45-50. Also: Column 4, Lines 54-61, where the Examiner is interpreting 'device[s]' to encompass service provided by differing systems. Therefore, transmitting the requested service of the child "via a predetermined cable to the server/processor 1 (Col. 4, Ln. 60-61)" is indicative of controlling access to differing devices' services presented over said predetermined cable.].

**C17.** The method of claim 12, further comprising providing a content selection module enabling an administrator to select content viewable by the child [Column 8, Lines 10-15.].

**C18.** The method of claim 12, further comprising monitoring child activities in order to keep track of earned credits [Column 7, Lines 38-41 *and* Lines 3-9.].

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**C19.** The method of claim 12, further comprising providing a child user interface including a credit gauge enabling the child to view available credits [Column 6, Lines 3-7.].

**C20.** The method of claim 19, further comprising prompting the child to earn credits with the child user interface [Column 6, Lines 3-7.].

**C21.** The method of claim 19, further comprising notifying the child with the child user interface when insufficient credits are available [Column 5, Lines 1-6.].

**C22.** The method of claim 19, further comprising prompting the child on the child user interface to perform required tasks [Column 6, Lines 3-7.].

**C23.** The method of claim 12, further comprising providing an administrator user interface with a child activity log for allowing the administrator to view recently performed child activities [Column 7, Lines 38-41 and Lines 3-9.].

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent No. 5,231,661 discloses methods pertinent to controlling specific devices based on time accounting. U.S. Patent No. 6,091,886 discloses methods for controlling specific content types during specific times. U.S. Patent No. 5,046,157 discloses a system for controlling a device by time accounting. Please also see other pertinent prior-art as listed on the PTO-892.



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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kent L. Williams whose telephone number is 571-270-1376. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:00-4:30 with Alternate Fridays Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kent Williams  
4/27/2007

CHRISTOPHER REVAK  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

